CHAPTER V.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

198. The lines on which the forest administration of the Circle is conducted have continued unchanged during the year.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND THEIR RECRUITMENT.

199. The controlling staff on the last day of the forest year, *viz.*, the 30th June 1897, consisted of the following appointments :—

Imperial.

		Rs.
1	Conservator, 1st Grade, at	1,600
1	Deputy Conservator, 1st Grade, at	900
1	Do. 2nd Grade, at	800
3	Deputy Conservators, 3rd Grade, at	650
1	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade, at	550
2	Assistant Conservators, 1st Grade, at	450
1	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade, at	350

Of these, one officer, *viz.*, the Deputy Conservator, 1st Grade, was lent to the Educational Department to work in the College of Science, Poona, as Professor of Forestry.

Provincial.

		Rs.
1	Extra Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade, at	450
1	Extra Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade, at	350
1	Do. do. 2nd Grade, at	300
1	Do. do. 3rd Grade, at	250
1	Do. do. 4th Grade, at	200

200. Two forest guards on Rs. 7 each have been added to the numerical strength and constitution of the permanent subordinate protective establishment.

201. The usual temporary establishment of 18 forest guards on Rs. 8 each and 33 on Rs. 7 each per mensem was entertained.

202. The strength of the office establishment of the Conservator of Forests has been increased by one clerk on Rs. 60, one clerk on Rs. 40 and two peons on Rs. 8 each per mensem, and that of the Poona Division by one clerk on Rs. 20 per month ; all the remaining office establishments remain unchanged.

203. The Conservator has much pleasure in recording that all the Divisional Forest Officers and the Extra Assistant Conservators whose names have already been mentioned in paragraph 15 of this report have each and all without exception worked loyally, zealously and energetically throughout the year and have merited his acknowledgments.

204. The undermentioned members of the subordinate protective establishment are reported to have merited special mention :—

Rangers.

Abdul Rasul Khajbaksh, who was deputed on special duty in Khándesh in connection with the famine grass operations.
Keshao Pandurang Kavthekar.
Kashinath Narayen Joshi.
Dinkar Narayen Damle.
J. H. Irani.

Foresters.

Gopal Shrikrishna.
Maktumali Sarwarali.
Hushnodin Gulam Hussen.
Rahimatkha Maktumkha.
Gangadhar Gopal Umbralkar.

The two first-named performed excellent work in the Sátpuda Forests in directing and supervising the cutting and exploitation of grass.

Office Establishment.

Mr. M. N. Gokhale,	Mr. M. D. Joshi,
„ H. J. Mehendale,	„ B. W. Joshi, and
„ D. T. Salshingikar,	„ W. T. Tilwankar.

205. The office establishment of the Divisional Forest Officer, West Khándesh, suffered much from sickness throughout the season; at one time in the cold weather there was only one clerk out of six fit to do any work at all, and this state of things lasted for some weeks. On the whole the health of the establishments was good. Thirty forest guards died during the year.

206. The following statement furnishes an account of the subordinates who retired, resigned or were dismissed for bad work, &c. :—

No.	Division.	Number of Subordinates.		
		Retired.	Resigned.	Dismissed.
1	East Khándesh ...	3	...	6
2	West Khándesh ...	...	3	7
3	Násik	...	1	6
4	Ahmednagar	...	...	13
5	Poona	1	1	22
6	Sátára	2	1	3
7	Sholápur	...	...	4
	Total ...	6	6	61

FOREST INSTRUCTION, &c.

207. In June 1896 there were two classes which were during the summer term taken through the part of the curriculum assigned to that period, comprising Forestry for the junior, and Law and Forest Organization for the senior class. The junior class spent a portion of the autumn term in the Thána District and the senior class studied practical work in the Poona Division.

208. In December the senior class was finally examined and Ranger's certificates were awarded to 7 candidates.

The number of students in the several classes in January 1897 was

L. C. E. Class...	... 3
Senior Ranger Class	... 11
Junior do.	... 28

209. Owing to the outbreak of plague study was interrupted in February and lectures were not resumed until 14th June 1897, from which date the numbers in the classes have been slightly reduced as follows :—

L. C. E. Class...	... 2
Senior Ranger Class	... 10
Junior do.	... 22

to which must be added the recently formed Forester Class numbering 5. General progress has been as satisfactory as could be expected under the circumstances.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Imports and Exports of Forest Produce.

210. Hirda, the fruit of Terminalia chebula, and rosha oil (Andropogon schœnanthus) are the only articles of forest produce that are exported from this Circle to Bombay and Europe, the former for tanning or dyeing and the latter for medicinal purposes. Teak (Tectona grandis) is likewise exported from Khándesh

to Baroda markets and from one division to another. In the two divisions of Khándesh import duty is levied on timber and other forest produce coming from the surrounding Native States, and the collections of the year amount to Rs. 10,953 against Rs. 16,818 of the year preceding. The cause of this falling off has been already explained in Chapter III.

Civil Suits.

211. A suit brought by one Shamatkhan Hasamkhan to recover Rs. 4,740 in connection with a grass contract was decided in favour of Government by the Assistant Judge, Sátára.

Conservator's Tour of Inspection.

212. Mr. Betham held the administrative charge of the Circle throughout the touring season, *i.e.*, from November to the following June, and he travelled in all the divisions of the Circle, except Sholápur, which he was not able to visit on account of the famine and in consequence of the services of the Divisional Forest Officer Mr. Fisher having been lent to the Famine Department. Seven out of eight Divisional Offices and 15 Range Offices were inspected during the year. In the course of his tour Mr. Betham met Divisional Forest Officers and personally discussed with them forest business.

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.

Camp Belvandi Kothár, Ahmednagar District,
dated 4th March 1898.